

Torrance, California
November 26, 1940

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting of the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, November 26, 1940 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being
Councilmen: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. Absent:
Councilmen: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held November 12, 1940 be approved as written. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Mr. Aubrey Thomas requesting permission to operate a pool room at 1203 El Prado.

Councilman Powell moved that the request be referred to the Chief of Police for recommendation and report at the next meeting. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Robert W. Wiles and Joe Williams of 4456 Lockwood Avenue, Los Angeles, requesting permission to establish a cleaning and refinery plant consisting of 4 or 5 oil tanks, 1 boiler and pumps, said plant to be located on Lot 2, Block 102, Torrance Tract.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request be granted, Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce requesting that the City of Torrance assume the cost of electricity to be used by the Torrance Business Mens' Association in their holiday season street decoration program, the cost of which will be approximately \$175.00.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be granted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce stating that they had abandoned one, and purchased two, Torrance Highway signs, at a saving of \$7.00 per month rental for said three signs, and as owners of all eleven highway signs, and as the City's advertising agency, the Chamber of Commerce requested the City to assume the cost of any future necessary repairs, removals or change of locations of said signs.

No action pending further investigation.

A communication was read from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce requesting that the City authorize an appropriation for participation of the Torrance Municipal Band in the forthcoming Fifth Annual Christmas Program.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be granted. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the Walteria Civic Organization requesting that the roof on the Walteria Recreation Building be repaired.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Councilman Murray be delegated to investigate the building for necessary repairs and approve reasonable expenditure for same. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire: NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the Walteria Civic Organization requesting an appropriation of \$60.00 for the Walteria Children's Christmas Party.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be granted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett read in full communications from Marion W. Freeman, 719 Columbia Court, Torrance; Lute Fraser, 1732 Cabrillo Ave., Torrance and Field & Stream, 515 Madison Avenue, New York, protesting the passage of a proposed ordinance to register firearms.

Councilman Hitchcock moved the communications be filed. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1409-A

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING DEED FROM COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COVERING A CERTAIN PORTION OF BLOCK 50, TORRANCE TRACT, FOR PARK PURPOSES.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1409 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1410

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING SETTLEMENT COVERING LIQUIDATION OF INDEBTEDNESS OF 1915 ACT DISTRICTS.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1410 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1411

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING SEWER CONNECTION CHARGE IN THE DISTRICT KNOWN AS W.P.A. PROJECT 1101-4276, VISTA HIGHLANDS SEWER PROJECT.

Mayor McGuire requested more information with reference to the above resolution and Acting Engineer Jain explained that there were approximately 500 lots in the Vista Highlands District but that probably half of them will not be hooked up. He estimated that at present there are about 106 lots being serviced and assumed that within the next ten years there would be twice that many. He did not believe \$25.00 sewer connection fee exhorbitant when compared with the fees paid by property owners in other districts. He cited the cost and life of a cesspool for purposes of compairson.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1411 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett reported the receipt of \$828.78 dividend check from State Compensation Insurance Fund for the period February 14, 1939 to February 14, 1940.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation not to exceed \$50.00 be made for Developing Outfit for the Police Department. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation not to exceed \$65.00 be made for 50,000 B.T.U. Gas Heater with Thermostatic control for the Fire Department. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Murray moved that Mr. Alfred B. Hunter be appointed Deputy City Attorney and to act in the absence of City Attorney John E. McCall. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock reported completion of erection of fence on property deeded by the County of Los Angeles to the City of Torrance for park purposes and located adjacent the Health Center.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Clerk be instructed to address a letter to Logan R. Cotton, City Auditor, requesting him to meet with the Council on Tuesday, December 3, 1940 at 4:30 P.M. for the purpose of discussing and making certain changes in the bookkeeping system. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$123.60 be made for 6-1" Water Meters for the Water Department. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$56.45 be made for 1 Special 16" Adapter for the Water Department. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire stated that some members of the City Council had recently met with the Associated Assessment Engineers and the Delinquent Tax Lands Committee with reference to tax deeded property, and called on Mr. Haines of the Associated Assessment Engineers who explained that the Tax Lands Committee has indicated they will approve the purchase by the City of Torrance of certain parcels of land, with the exception of five or six parcels which have been redeemed at a 25% reduction over the price first quoted. This matter was delayed because the Tax Land Committee had figured on another plan which, when checked into, was not considered as good as the original plan of 25% reduction.

Mr. Haines presented an agreement between the County of Los Angeles and the City of Torrance for the purchase of certain parcels of land described in Schedules A and B of said agreement. He requested that this agreement be signed and submitted to the Tax Lands Committee at their next Tuesday meeting, after which it will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval, at which time he requested that some members of the Council be present.

Mr. Haines stated that they had obtained quitclaim deeds on 13 parcels of land on which the City might realize funds to take up further options. He pointed out that approximately \$1800.00, rather than \$500.00, would be required for purchase of said options, and that an investment of \$1300.00 would realize a return of \$3500.00.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$169.87 be made for 2-12" Valves for the Water Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Ray Schumacher of 1313 Cota read a communication from the Harbor Pistol and Rifle Club protesting the registration of firearms. He then introduced Mr. Pope, formerly Regional Director of the National Rifle Association. Mr. Pope first referred to the communications read protesting the registration of firearms and stated that the N.R.A. does not intercede in local problems, however he added that organization had fought against gun legislation, and concluded his short discourse by saying that he personally was firmly of the opinion that "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed".

Mr. G. L. King, 1961 Plaza del Amo, asked that some action be taken on a petition, filed sometime ago, objecting to any business being maintained in a residential zone.


After considerable discussion on the subject, Councilman Babcock moved that the matter be referred to the Deputy City Attorney for a ruling on the legality of whether the equipment can be removed from the property if said equipment was there prior to the adoption of the new zoning ordinance and to report his findings at the next regular meeting. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 9:10 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned to Thursday, November 28th, 1940 at 5:00 P.M.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance